

Article 31

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AMENDMENT

(Amendment under the provision of Law Section 11)

To: Commissioner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/11669

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4. Item to be Amended

Claims

5. Subject Matter of Amendment

(1) In claim 1, "2-ketoglutaric acid" is deleted.

(2) In claim 1, "derivative thereof" is amended to "derivative thereof, wherein the biological low-molecular-weight derivative undergoes hydrolyzation in vivo after application in vivo and reacts with a biological high-molecular-weight compound".

(3) In claim 4, "the biological low-molecular-weight derivative according to claim 1." is amended to "the biological low-molecular-weight derivative according to claim 1, the crosslinked high-molecular-weight product comprising a gel that is metabolized in vivo after application in vivo".

(4) New claims 8 to 11 are added.

#### 6. List of Attached Documents

(1) Claims: page 13, page 13/1, page 14

CLAIMS

1. A biological low-molecular-weight derivative obtained by modifying at least one carboxyl group of a biological low-molecular-weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups with N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide, or a derivative thereof.
2. The biological low-molecular-weight derivative according to claim 1, wherein the biological low-molecular-weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups is a low-molecular-weight compound in the citric acid cycle or a derivative thereof.
3. The biological low-molecular-weight derivative according to claim 1, wherein the biological low-molecular-weight compound having two or more carboxyl groups is malic acid, oxalacetic acid, citric acid, *cis*-aconitic acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, or a derivative thereof.
4. A crosslinked high-molecular-weight product obtained by crosslinking a high-molecular-weight compound with the biological low-molecular-weight derivative according to claim 1.
5. The crosslinked high-molecular-weight product according to claim 4, wherein the high-molecular-weight compound is at least one of proteins, glycosaminoglycans,

chitosans, polyamino acids, and polyalcohols.

6. The crosslinked high-molecular-weight product  
according to claim 4, wherein the high-molecular-weight  
5 compound is a glycosaminoglycan comprising chondroitin  
sulfate, dermatan sulfate, hyaluronic acid, heparan sulfate,  
heparin, keratan sulfate, or a derivative thereof.

7. The crosslinked high-molecular-weight product  
10 according to claim 4, wherein the high-molecular-weight  
compound is a protein comprising collagen, atelocollagen,  
alkali-soluble collagen, gelatin, keratin, serum albumin,  
egg albumin, hemoglobin, casein, globulin, fibrinogen, or a  
derivative thereof.